

With Sunday Morning Edition.

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#### Laws and Business.

In his address to the Merchants' Association of New York last night, Mr. Root, deploring the confusion that has grown out of the great mass of laws enacted and court decisions interpreting them, said:

"I have found that over 62,000 laws have been passed by Congress and state legislatures in this country in the past five years, and over 65,000 decisions reported by courts of last resort. How can you possibly know them? How can you conduct your business and keep out of jail?"

This gives added point to the following news paragraph now circulating:

"The Sixty-third Congress considered 3,053 measures, according to the Senate secretary's customary most recent report, and made laws of 700 of them. Originating in the Senate were 775 bills and 245 joint resolutions; in the House, 2,166 bills and 441 joint resolutions. Of the 700 laws, 417 were 'public' and 283 'private.'"

It is hardly correct to say that Congress "considered" that many measures. A statement nearer the mark would be that that many measures were introduced and appropriately referred. Some of them probably never had the ghost of a chance to pass. Some probably had been introduced in former Congresses. Some will probably be introduced again in the next Congress. Some measures have appeared so often they have become shopworn.

Still, after allowing for this, the fact remains that a great many measures are considered and passed by every Congress, and that the total number on the books today, not to mention the records of state legislatures, is enormous. Not only business men, but lawyers, find their way through the mass and maze with difficulty.

What Mr. Root said about the popular distrust of successful business men has a much wider application than he gave the matter. The muckrakers have not confined themselves to attacks on one calling. The professions have been as much splashed as business. Charges have been made indiscriminately, and without respect to persons or activities. We have been told that shysterism and sharp practice have become the profitable rule in the practice of law; that quacks and their patented remedies flourish at the expense of the medical profession, and that even the pulpit is not immune from the power of wealth and the temptation to pursue it.

The period of hysteria inaugurated by the muckrakers seems, however, to be drawing to a close. The atmosphere is clearing and sentiment returning to normal. Even those who have profited by the nasty industry of unsettling confidence in men prominent in politics and men successful in business talk and act as if they had had enough of that sort of thing, and show a willingness to co-operate for a return of confidence and an era of helpfulness and prosperity.

#### The Missing Submarine.

The United States Navy has been particularly fortunate in the matter of its submarine craft, which until now have escaped misfortune in maneuvering, while the navies of foreign powers, in times of peace, have suffered serious losses, due to accidents. Now apparently this record has been broken, with the disappearance beneath the surface at Honolulu of the American submarine F-4, with eighteen men. Though nearly twenty-four hours have passed since she sank, in the course of her target practice work off the Hawaiian harbor, and every possible effort has been made to locate her, she remains below the surface, and there is the gravest apprehension that she has been wrecked at the bottom of the sea, through some cause now only to be guessed. After this lapse of time there is only the slightest hope that any of the men can be living. Ultimately the boat will probably be grappled and brought to the surface, when it will doubtless be possible to ascertain the reason for the disaster.

China is beginning to wonder how far a national policy of peace at any price can be carried.

#### War and Peace.

The announcement of the death of Mrs. "Stonewall" Jackson develops the fact that a grandson of the great Confederate general is a lieutenant in the United States Army, and stationed at present in the Philippines. Here is a comforting suggestion for those who are told, and are disposed to believe, that war produces divisions past remedy, and bequeaths feelings of undying bitterness.

Europe, undoubtedly, is in terrible throes. Passion never before ran

higher. Destruction of life and property was never greater or more appalling. Deep scars will be left. Years will be necessary to cool what is now so hot. But that time will come. The war will end, and the world go about its peaceful business again. Many good relations, now interrupted, will be resumed.

Our civil war was an awful experience, and lasted four years. Sections, and even families, were divided. Brother against brother, and sometimes father against son, faced each other in battle. The death toll was enormous, and the property losses almost beyond calculation. Scars were deep and numerous.

At the close there were many heads wagging and many gloomy predictions made. The war was at an end, but the country had not been saved. The government could not be held together by bayonets. The people of the north and those of the south could never be reunited for mutual advantage. Hatreds would never die. Men who had fought the war would swear their children, the one side against the other. Territory ravaged by the strife could never be restored to comfort and prosperity.

How shortsighted the pessimistic calculations! Reunion began soon after the strife ceased. As difficulties arose they were overcome. Waste places were built up. Former enemies became personal friends, and professional or business associates. Many young men of the south found opportunities in the north and improved them, and vice versa. Sectionalism survived in politics, and politicians traded on it on both sides. But the solidarity of the country and the strength of the new government were never threatened. The scars have nearly all disappeared.

As that has happened in this country, why should it be impossible in Europe? A family row is always the fiercest; but even the fiercest family rows come to an end and rarely leave lasting hate. Years may be necessary to soften asperities, but the peoples of Europe will again live at peace together, and present waste places blossom again as the rose. The world has been fighting and then making up from the beginning, and will continue in that spirit to the end.

#### The Massacre at Urumiah.

The outrage at Urumiah, Persia, just reported by cable from Tabriz, through the American consul there, is calculated to arouse the keenest indignation in this country against the Turkish government, even though conditions may be such as to permit no action in reprisal or punishment. According to the report of Missionary Labaree, sent to the consul, a Turkish officer, with a number of regular troops, forced his way into the compound of the mission at Urumiah, and, against the protests of the American missionaries, removed a group of Assyrian Christian refugees and massacred them, after beating and insulting the Americans. These unfortunate Assyrians were, of course, not under the official protection of the flag of this government, but they were in the custody of Americans in whom the government of the United States is directly concerned and whose humane mission has the sanction and support of the American people. The presence of Turkish troops in Persia is in itself unjustified and the government at Constantinople cannot possibly condone the massacre on any ground. A strong protest should be directed promptly in the name of the United States against this wanton disregard of American rights.

A great many democrats are inclined to insist that the 1912 method of selecting a presidential candidate, while it took a considerable amount of time, was entirely satisfactory in its results.

It is at least conceded that when an American ship is accidentally sunk all kinds of protests may be made without violation of neutrality.

The promise of an Easter parade of airships over England will not render London any more cordial to the "made in Germany" idea.

Paris now declares that the hum of aircraft does not disturb its slumbers. This is the first intimation that the French capital ever slept.

Having made Vice President Marshall an honorary member of their tribe, the Sioux are now expected to develop a sense of humor.

Incidental to every call to arms there is also a series of calls to the lecture platform.

#### The Aisle Standers.

A verdict has just been rendered in the District court giving damages to a street car passenger who alleged assault by the motorman when he refused to move from his position in the aisle of the car to make room for additional passengers. The jury regarded the motorman's attempt to make him change his place as unwarranted to the extent of a verdict of a thousand dollars in damages against the employing company. This raises a question of importance, to be considered by the public utilities commission in its endeavors to give the public adequate street car service. Most passengers are amenable to the rule or custom requiring aisle "standers" to move forward on entering the car to the last possible place, to keep the exits and entrances as free as possible, but occasionally a passenger develops a streak of independence and declines to shift his position, or possibly he finds a safe grip somewhere near the door and is afraid to move forward to a less secure station.

The court ruled the other day in a

damage case that a passenger is subject to his own risk in the matter of the sudden starting of the car after his entrance, and he is thus warned that he must get a secure handhold to safeguard himself. The truth is there is little satisfaction to the passenger in being merely permitted to stand inside of the car, and he is evidently, in the view of the court, to be given some freedom of choice as to where he will be permitted to place himself.

These two decisions are to be read together, with the company not liable for falls incidental to the sudden starting of the car, but with the company's operatives not permitted to use force in compelling a passenger to change his position when once he has taken it. The logical outcome of these rulings is to increase the percentage of sitting passengers and diminish that of standing "fares." The utilities commission has proposed a rule along this line, but, as The Star has heretofore pointed out, the assured effect of such a rule will be to cause a grave congestion on the lines at the points of intersection during the rush hours by large additions to the number of vehicles. Perhaps the new lines proposed will relieve this condition somewhat, and meanwhile there is public hope that the projected bus service may improve the situation.

Predictions that the war will last three or four months longer are regarded as highly favorable. Some time ago the threat of a quarter of a year's war would have been regarded as the announcement of a calamity.

The "chautauqua salute" is mentioned as a means of distributing pneumonia germs. Older civilizations will yet follow the example of Japan and condemn the pocket handkerchief to the crematory.

The fact that Elihu Root has no desire to be President does not prevent him from making speeches calculated to impress the public mind with his exceptional qualities as a patriot and a thinker.

Government statistics indicate that American grain may become too valuable to warrant any risk of its being sent to the bottom of the ocean in shiploads.

Statesmanship is always bound to encounter difficulties in maintaining simultaneously a rigid news censorship and an appeal to popular sentiment.

The public has ceased to regard the announcement of a fruit crop failure as a conclusive indication that there will be no fruit.

It is generally conceded that there may be times when business needs encouragement more than regulation.

If he cannot have an acquittal Charles Becker would like to have an unlimited number of trials.

#### SHOOTING STARS.

BY PHILANDER JOHNSON.

#### Times Have Changed.

"Men used to be accused of going to the opera in order to see the ballet."  
"Yes. Times have changed. Now wives say the opera plots are improper, but take us to see the classic dancing."

#### Hope in Dialect.

Of men who wrote "Gadzooks" we sing.  
According them renown secure,  
So maybe if I write "Gol Ding!"  
I may turn up in literature.

#### An Art Suspicion.

"True art does not think of money."  
"No," replied the grand opera manager. "I'm expected to do the thinking. And sometimes I think brain work is as poorly paid in the art business as in another."

#### Unperturbed.

"That poem of yours about spring had some hard lines to scan. The feet were difficult to manage."  
"Well, in spring you must expect to have hard lines and take extra care about your feet."

#### Martial Perplexities.

"Our position is rather precarious," said the leader of a small band. "Gen. Bananio is likely to march against us at any time."  
"Why don't you retreat?"  
"That's the difficulty. There are so many generals about that an effort to get away from one may look like a precipitate attack on another."

#### Inconsistencies.

There was a man whose dealings were exceptionally great. His wealth if turned to cash would measure by the hundredweight. And when he made a deal the figures that he would express would be a "million dollars"; he would seldom mention less. When things went wrong and thousands were involved in sudden loss He wrote it in his ledger and it didn't make him cross. And yet he got so mad he kicked the table full of dents. Because a restaurant waiter held him up for fifty cents.

He would simply nod his head to close a big financial deal. And when it went against him he was never known to squeal.

He would gaze in reminiscence, free from any serious shock. On the losses represented by certificates of stock. And yet there were occasions when his state of mind serene was shattered in a way which with astonishment was seen. The way he cursed and quarreled was admittedly a shame. When he lost \$1 in a quarter limit game.

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\$2.00 line for.....\$1.20

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